

REMARKS

Applicant responds to the numbered sections of the Office Action of June 13, 2003, as follows:

The Amendments to the Specification, Claims, and Abstract, and Remarks

1. The continuity data at the beginning of the specification has been updated as requested by an amendment to the specification.

2. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's attention in noting the absence of the Finnish reference. Applicant has attempted to obtain a copy of this reference from electronic databases, but has been unsuccessful. However, applicant has learned that the inventor identified in connection with the Finnish reference is a chemist, specializing in inorganic chemistry and particularly silicate materials, and is known as an inventor of chemical compounds and chemical processes. On this basis, applicant questions the relevance of the Finnish reference to the apparatus claims of this application. Because neither applicant nor his attorneys have a copy of the Finnish reference, no copy can be provided in a Supplemental Disclosure Statement.

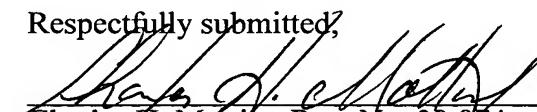
3. The objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure has been addressed by the foregoing amendment to the abstract.

4-7. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 12-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent claim 11 and any intervening claims. Applicant has therefore canceled claim 11 and amended claim 12 so that it includes the substance of claim 11 and is now independent. No further amendments are believed necessary to the remaining claims to secure their allowance.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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